

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

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ITEM NO:

44-03

SUBJECT: SOVIET AIRCRAFT LANDS ON ALASKAN ISLAND

A SOVIET AN-24 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT MADE A FORCED LANDING ON ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND EARLY THIS MORNING DUE TO LACK OF FUEL. THE ISLAND LIES BETWEEN THE SEWARD AND CHUKOTSKIY PENINSULAS. THE US EMBASSY IN MOSCOW WAS INFORMED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS ON AN ICE RECONNAISSANCE MISSION OVER THE BEPING SEA AND HAD SCIENTISTS ABOARD. THE SOVIETS ARE NOW PREPARING TO MAN ICE STATIONS IN THE ARCTIC AND THE AIRCRAFT COULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATIONS. THE ALASKAN AIP COMMAND IS PRE-

PARING TO FLY IN FUEL TO ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND TO ENABLE THE AIRCRAFT TO RETURN TO SOVIET TERRITORY.

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State Department review completed

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